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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/474,980	12/29/1999	Eugene M. Johnson	6029-2668	3036

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EXAMINER

HAYES, ROBERT CLINTON

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1647

DATE MAILED: 05/20/2003

15

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/474,980

Applicant(s)

Johnson et al

Examiner

Robert C. Hayes, Ph.D.

Art Unit

1647

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Aug 1, 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 32-59 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) 40-59 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claims 32-59 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 6) ☐ Other:

Art Unit: 1647

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restriction

1. Applicant's election of Group I (claims 32-39) in Paper No. 14 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).

Claims 40-59 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected inventions, there being no allowable generic or linking claim.

Election was made without traverse in Paper No. 14.

2. However, because of the distinct SEQ ID NOs recited in Group I, the following additional restriction requirement of elected Group I is now necessitated.

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

IA-W. Claims 32-39, drawn to antibodies capable of reacting with different persephin polypeptides, and methods of producing such (i.e., as it relates to SEQ ID NOs 185, 187, 196, 198, 217, 221, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 108, 113, 114, 125, 126, 127, 128 & 129), classified in Class 530, subclass 387.1.

Note that the Examiner will consider rejoining those sequences that are included within a single larger elected sequence (i.e., as it relates to pre- or pro- sequences).

Art Unit: 1647

3. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Although there are no provisions under the section for "Relation of Inventions" in MPEP 806.05 for inventive groups that are directed to different products, restriction is deemed proper because these products appear to constitute patently distinct inventions for the following reason:

Groups IA-IW are directed to products that are physically and functionally distinct, as illustrated by the distinct and unique SEQ ID NOs that define each epitope from which each distinct antibody molecule is produced. For example, each distinct SEQ ID NO represents a distinct epitope that defines what distinct antibody is to be produced, in which the claims currently recite separate and distinct mammalian species epitopes, as well as epitopes from distinct GDNF/persephin/neurturin family members.

It is pointed out that there is a proper distinction between these groups, since each product is not required in order for the other to exist. Thereby, these groups are distinct and separable for the reasons stated.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above, they have acquired a separate status in the art as illustrated by the different SEQ ID NOs recited, and the non-coextensiveness of the search and examination for each group would constitute an undue burden on the examiner to search and consider each of the separable groups with their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Art Unit: 1647

4. Applicant is advised that the response to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined to a single SEQ ID NO even though the requirement be traversed. It is further suggested that the claims be amended to separate claims directed to either murine, rat and human antibodies and/or different GDNF/persephin/neurturin family members.

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a diligently-filed petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(I).

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner Robert Hayes whose telephone number is (703) 305-3132. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday, and alternate Fridays, from 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Kunz, can be reached on (703) 305-4623. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308-4242.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.



Robert C. Hayes, Ph.D.

May 19, 2003

pat. sig.